

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of assembling an above-ground pool on a surface, comprising:

providing an elastomeric pad;

placing said elastomeric pad on said surface, wherein said elastomeric pad creates a padded area on said surface;

erecting a continuous wall around said padded area;

lining said continuous wall and said padded area with a pool liner, wherein said elastomeric pad is interposed between said pool liner and said surface wall.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of providing an elastomeric pad includes providing an elastomeric pad with a central region, a peripheral edge and a peripheral region proximate said peripheral edge, wherein said central region has a uniform thickness and said peripheral region increases in thickness as it approaches said peripheral edge.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of providing an elastomeric pad includes providing an elastomeric pad made from closed cell foam.
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of providing an elastomeric pad includes providing an elastomeric pad that is at least two inches thick in all places.
5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of placing said elastomeric pad on said surface includes assembling a plurality of segments of said elastomeric pad to cover said padded area on said surface.
6. A method of preparing an area of ground surface on which will be constructed an above-ground pool that has a pool liner, said method comprising the steps of:
- providing prefabricated padding;
- placing said prefabricated padding on the ground surface;
- constructing said above-ground pool over said prefabricated padding, wherein said prefabricated padding is interposed between said ground surface and said pool

liner, thereby preventing said pool liner from directly contacting said ground surface at any point.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said step of providing prefabricated padding includes providing a pad having a central region, a peripheral edge and a peripheral region proximate said peripheral edge, wherein said central region has a uniform thickness and said peripheral region increases in thickness as it approaches said peripheral edge.

8. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said step of providing prefabricated padding includes providing an elastomeric pad made from hydrophobic elastomeric material.

9. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said step of providing prefabricated padding includes providing an elastomeric pad that is at least two inches thick in all places.

10. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said step of placing said prefabricated padding on said ground

surface, includes assembling a plurality of segments of a pad to cover said area on said ground surface.

11. The method according to Claim 6, wherein said step of providing prefabricated padding includes providing a pad having a central region and a peripheral edge, and further including the step of folding said peripheral edge over toward said central region to double the thickness of said pad proximate said peripheral edge.

12. In an above-ground pool of the type having a continuous wall that surrounds the periphery of an enclosed area and a pool liner that is draped within said enclosed area, a pool pad device for use within said enclosed area under said pool liner, comprising:

at least one section of padding material forming a pool pad, wherein said pool pad has a central region, a peripheral edge and a peripheral region proximate said peripheral edge, and wherein said central region has a uniform thickness and said peripheral region increases in thickness as it approaches said peripheral edge.